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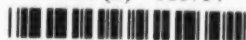
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Letter dated 6 July 2004 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 21 June 2004, which I received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan



Annex

**Letter dated 21 June 2004 from the Secretary-General of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Security Council resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), I attach a report on ISAF operations covering the period from 11 February to 11 May 2004. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(Signed) Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

Enclosure**Quarterly report to the United Nations on the operations of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan**

1. The report covers the period from 11 February to 11 May 2004. As at 6 May 2004, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) numbered 6,265 personnel, including troops from non-NATO countries.
2. As reported, ISAF assumed command and control of its first provincial reconstruction team at Konduz on 30 December 2003. Work continues towards NATO assumption of command of additional provincial reconstruction teams in the north and the west of the country. With the establishment of additional teams and the assumption of responsibilities for Kabul International Airport, changes are expected regarding States represented in the ISAF mission and regarding associated numbers of national troops.

Status of partner/non-NATO contributing countries

3. As at 6 May 2004, a total of 26 NATO countries and 11 non-NATO countries are contributing to the ISAF mission.

Security

4. The security situation across Afghanistan remains fragile; while security in the area of operations around both Kabul and Konduz is expected to improve in the medium and long term, there remains a significant risk of unrest, outbreak of factional violence and attacks by opposing militia forces; this is especially the case ahead of the forthcoming elections.
5. In the area of operations around Kabul, the overall security situation over the last three months has been relatively calm but unstable, with continual threat warnings. ISAF has been able to pursue its framework security tasks in association with the Afghan National Army and the Kabul City Police. Recent initiatives by ISAF to engage the National Directorate for Security have been successful and they may lead to an increase in intelligence-sharing and cooperation.
6. In the area of operations of the Konduz provincial reconstruction team, the security situation has hardly changed in the last three months. It remains calm but instability prevails, resulting from the presence of warlords and narcotics. The opposing militia forces have no organized presence in the province but the area is of interest to them as a centre of narcotics production. Frictions between factions and between tribes continue to undermine security; they are often related to trafficking in narcotics. The provincial reconstruction team has gradually extended its patrol presence beyond Konduz to other towns and villages in its area of operations. These patrols have not led to any increase in tensions or to reactions against personnel of the team.
7. In support of the Bonn Declaration and of security sector reform, ISAF has continued to take active steps to assist the Afghan Transitional Authority in the improvement of the security situation in its area of operation, including by assisting:
 - (a) The Afghan Transitional Authority in providing area security presence during voter registration in the Kabul and Konduz areas of operation and beyond;

(b) The Transitional Authority in providing security for anti-terrorist operations within Kabul;

(c) The Transitional Authority in providing security support during the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and heavy weapon cantonment and survey processes in the Kabul and Konduz areas of operation and in areas beyond the current areas of operation;

(d) The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Transitional Authority in providing security by conducting force protection assessments of United Nations facilities and by securing ceremonial and meeting locations as well as various visits and events.

Support to the Afghan Transitional Authority and UNAMA

8. The implementation of the Bonn Agreement was thoroughly reviewed at the March 2004 Berlin Conference. During the conference, the Afghan Transitional Authority/Government of Afghanistan published its road map for the near future, committing Afghanistan to free and fair elections and asking NATO and the Coalition to deploy international military forces in support of the national police and the Afghan National Army in numbers large enough to protect the integrity of the electoral process against terrorism, factionalism and lawlessness. The Bonn Agreement will remain on track with the successful conduct of free and fair elections across the country.

9. ISAF remains fully engaged, in its supportive role, in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, both in Kabul and more generally in Afghanistan. Recent initiatives have sought to re-energize that process and in particular to achieve the disbandment of entire units. However, progress is proving to be extremely slow, owing to the continuing delays by Afghan commanders and warlords who remain reluctant to engage meaningfully in the process.

10. ISAF is strongly committed in its supporting role to the cantonment of heavy weapons and has successfully completed phase three of that process in Kabul. The cantonment of the remaining heavy weapons in and around the capital recommenced on 27 March 2004, marking the final phase of the programme. However, the most difficult cantonments have yet to be negotiated. ISAF envisages that heavy weapon cantonment in the capital will be completed prior to the elections. In the northern region, heavy weapon cantonment and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process are strained by the tension between supporters of Generals Dostum and Atta.

11. While the United States is the lead nation for the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army (with the participation of France and the United Kingdom in leading support roles), ISAF continues to coordinate some training and development opportunities. Embedded training teams and a "mentor" programme will assist the leadership and professional development of Afghan National Army headquarters and counterpart units.

12. The further enhancement of the capability and authority of the Afghan national police forces, particularly outside Kabul, remains critical to both the rule of law and the authority of the central government. The German police continues to assist with the reconstitution and training of the Kabul City Police at the Afghan Police Academy. Some 8,000 policemen have been trained so far but this number remains

insufficient to ensure nationwide coverage. ISAF continues to support the police development programme through joint patrolling. Challenges remain regarding recruitment of suitable personnel and retention when higher salaries can be gained outside the police. The United States continues to support the German Afghan National Police programme with the establishment of six regional police training centres, which have graduated over 10,000 national police officers, and have the goal of training 20,000 police by the end of June.

13. Building on the work by the United Kingdom with the Central Narcotics Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Government of Afghanistan held its first international conference on drugs on 8 and 9 February 2004. The Afghan Transitional Authority, including President Karzai, took the opportunity to express its commitment to implement the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy, which the Transitional Authority had adopted in May 2003. This five-year national strategy envisages a 70 per cent reduction in the production of poppy by 2007 and complete elimination by 2012. NATO has included guidance and direction for counter-narcotics operations in its new operational plan.

14. Judicial reform efforts present significant challenges to the Afghan Transitional Authority and to the international community as both work to extend the influence of the Authority outside Kabul. Current reform efforts appear to be fragmented and greater coordination and increased involvement by the international community is urgently required. Particular focus must be made on infrastructure improvements (including prisons), training of judges and attorneys, and codification and enforcement of the law. ISAF continues to work closely with government ministries to identify and address issues that impact directly upon the rule of law and to provide security.

Future ISAF operations

15. Provincial reconstruction teams are the central element of ISAF plans to expand its mission. ISAF intends to field additional teams in Afghanistan backed up by the necessary operational enablers and supporting infrastructure. Although provincial reconstruction teams do not represent significant military combat power in the conventional sense, the Coalition members consider them to be an appropriate vehicle for meeting the United Nations mandate of assisting the Afghan Transitional Authority/Government of Afghanistan and UNAMA in extending its authority and security to the provinces. The expanded presence of ISAF through provincial reconstruction teams will be an important element of ISAF support to the upcoming election process.

16. The relationship among ISAF, the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition, the Afghan Transitional Authority and UNAMA in Kabul has allowed for a better coordination of the efforts undertaken to achieve the Transitional Authority's desired end state. The emphasis now will be on achieving a similar outcome outside the Kabul area in conjunction with other active participants of the international community.

17. Concerning Kabul International Airport, while the objective remains to pass control and management of the airport back to national authorities, it is recognized that this will not happen for at least two years, particularly as there are more urgent demands on the resources of the Afghan Transitional Authority. A common

approach of the international community with respect to the rehabilitation of the airport is therefore crucial. In order to expedite this process, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the World Bank and NATO have created a framework document that was approved by the Afghan Transitional Authority on 27 February 2004. This document paves the ground for the medium- and long-term development of the airport towards established international standards. In the meantime, preparations are under way to enable NATO to take over the airport from Germany on 1 June 2004. Civilian and military use of the airport continues to expand. As usable space is critical for the expansion of facilities and the improvement of ramps, ISAF is currently engaged in considerable construction work.

Conclusions

18. ISAF is continuing to fulfil its United Nations mandate, the provision of security assistance to the Afghan Transitional Authority, within its area of operations. Framework and responsive security operations have been conducted successfully and without significant incident. It is noteworthy that security operations are increasingly being conducted jointly with Transitional Authority security forces, enabling ISAF to underline its role as an assistance force.

19. The lack of substantive progress with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process continues to impede efforts to extend central government authority beyond Kabul and presents a risk to the security and viability of elections. In addition to framework and reactive security operations, ISAF continues to execute a supporting role in security sector reforms, principally in respect to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the associated heavy weapon cantonment programmes, but also in respect to other pillars, within means and capabilities.

20. With the benefit of continuity under NATO command, ISAF is strengthening the foundations of its operations in Afghanistan and continuing to develop the breadth of its capabilities, including support to the election process. While there remains room for further progress, engagement and coordination with the Coalition and with both government and non-governmental agencies are increasing steadily, permitting greater coherence and efficiency.
